



All you need to know to market seeds: a guide for Scotland

Step 1: Getting a licence for seed marketing (Before certifying your variety)

Introduction:

If you want to market the seeds of the main varieties of agricultural crops or vegetables in Scotland, you must:

- **must be registered as a Seed Merchant, Seed Processor or Seed Packer**
- have successfully applied to **have your seeds certified** - this shows that they meet EU quality standards

You can also market seeds which another licensed person has had certified. You're considered to be marketing seeds if you're doing any of the following:

- holding or keeping them before sale
- offering them for sale, eg by advertising
- giving them to someone else

The Official Seed Testing Station for Scotland (OSTS), inside the Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) division of the Scottish Government Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate, is the principle centre for seed testing and seed quality information in Scotland.

Steps:

1. Apply for a licence: You won't be able to get seeds certified or market seeds if your business is not registered. There is no fee for registration and you can find the registration form [here](#).

2. Inspections after you're licensed: After you've got a licence to market seeds, OSTs officials will visit your site at least once a year to check your records, inspect your premises and crops, and sample your seeds. OSTs will usually contact you to arrange an inspection. If you're licensed solely to market seed, OSTs will contact you every 3 years to check your business details.